continuous depleting ground water tables in 14 districts of Western Rajasthan;

(b) whether the CGWB has also evolved schemes for the replenishment of the ground water table in the affected areas of Rajasthan;

(c) if so, the details in this regard indicating the amount of financial assistance sought from the World Bank; and

(d) the details of progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has evolved a Central Sector Scheme on "Study of Recharge to Ground Water" on pilot basis under which 18 projects are under implementation in the districts of Jaipur, Jhunjhunu, Udaipur and Sikar in Rajasthan. In addition, CGWB has prepared a report entitled "Towards green Thar desert through ground water recharge" which envisages recharge of ground water utilizing canal/flood water in Thar desert covering 13 districts of Western Rajasthan *viz.* Barmer, Churu, Ganganagar, Hanumangarh, Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Jalore, Jhunjhunu, Jodhpur, Nagaur, Pali, Sirohi and Sikar. The source water for ground water recharge would be available from- (a) conjunctive use of surface and ground water in canal command areas of Ganganagar and Hanumangarh districts, (b) Ghaggar river floodwater collected in natural depressions, (c) water outflow from Harrike Barrage during monsoon periods and (d) adoption of water saving irrigation practices and cropping patterns. For these schemes, no financial assistance has been sought from the World Bank.

(d) Does not arise.

Employment opportunities through inter-linking of rivers

1791. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the employment opportunities expected to be generated from the proposed inter-linking of rivers;

(b) the share of Rajasthan therefrom;

(c) whether any strategy has been worked out in this respect; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Large scale employment generation is expected from the proposed interlinking of rivers, including two links, namely, Yamuna-Rajasthan and Rajasthan-Sabarmati link passing through Rajasthan, due to construction activity of the links and enhanced agricultural and industrial activities in the region. The link proposals are at feasibility stage, and no exact assessment are available at the moment.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Water conservation techniques

1792. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Earth Care Foundation is seeking help of Government to participate in their programmes on water literacy and water sensitivity by demonstrating water conservation techniques in the country;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for the campaigning of water conservation techniques in the country?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir. The Earth Care Foundation has not sought any help of the Ministry of Water Resources to participate in their programmes.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The steps taken for the campaigning of water conservation techniques in the country include mass awareness programmes; seminars and workshops; and water harvesting/conservation schemes.

New Water Policy

1793. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state: